

March 23, 2017
www.mbc.org

THE Baptist Record

Vol. 141
No. 12

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

BRIEFS

ACT ON GENOCIDE, CRITICS DEMAND

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. should act in keeping with the State Department's May 17, 2016, designation that Islamic State's murderous campaign against Christians and other religious minorities is genocide, religious freedom advocates say. Neither the U.S. nor United Nations (U.N.) have followed up on the designation, critics point out. "As a signatory to the Convention on Genocide the U.S. is obliged to act fast to stop the genocide and prosecute the perpetrators. The U.S. and the international community have failed to act," says Kelsey Zorzi, U.N. counsel for ADF International in Washington, D.C.

YOUNG LEADERS EYED IN EXEC. COMM. STUDY

ATLANTA (BP) — The Young Leaders Advisory Council, appointed by Frank Page, president of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, is drafting recommendations to foster vibrant participation within Southern Baptist life among young leaders including pastors, denominational servants, and others, and is conducting an online survey to help accomplish its goal. The survey may be found at survey.monday.com/r/1bpress. No Mississippi Baptists were appointed to the council.

IMB TRUSTEE RULE SUBJECT OF STUDY

NASHVILLE (BP) — A subcommittee of the International Mission Board (IMB) is embarking on a study of trustee representation from states and territories that are experiencing a decrease in numbers of Southern Baptists. IMB's charter indicates that achieving 20,000 Southern Baptist church members qualifies a state or defined territory for trustee representation, but when a state or defined territory drops below the 20,000 threshold and does not regain the threshold before the end of a trustee term, a succeeding trustee for that region will not be nominated by the SBC's Committee on Nominations.



GuideStone®

Financial Resources

GuideStone: Hold steady after interest rate hike

DALLAS (BP) — The Federal Open Market Committee of the U.S. Federal Reserve confirmed analyst and market expectations March 15 by raising the target Fed Funds interest rate by a quarter of a point, bringing it to a range of three-quarters percent to one percent.

Analysts at GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas believe this latest interest rate decision will have an impact on individuals with variable interest rate debt as well as short-term and

institutional investors, but it means little for long-term investors such as those planning for retirement.

Fed officials also left economic projections almost



SPIKA

entirely unchanged, indicating that the economy is growing in line with earlier forecasts.

GuideStone analysts expect two more rate hikes to occur in 2017.

Federal Reserve officials having indicated a desire to raise interest rates gradually over

the near term, citing continued economic expansion.

David Spika, GuideStone's chief strategic investment officer, noted that rising rates are normal and welcome at this point during an economic cycle. The March 15 move was only the third rate hike in the last decade.

"The Fed raises short-term rates when the economy is growing fast enough to generate full employment and a reasonable level of inflation," Spika said. "Such



HAWKINS

see GUIDESTONE on p. 6

Conditions deteriorate for Chinese Christians

WASHINGTON (BP) — The persecution of Christians in China has increased and is expected to continue to do so as a result of a dramatic policy change by the communist government, according to the human rights organization China Aid.

In its annual report released March 2, China Aid said Beijing's shift in how it seeks to manage religion and the adoption of that new policy by government agencies resulted in expanded persecution of individual Christians and greater oppression of unregistered house churches in 2016.

Conditions for Christians in the world's most populous country are expected to deteriorate further this year, the non-profit organization reported.

Chinese President Xi Jinping signaled the shift when he stressed during an April 2016 speech the significance of religions "persistently following the path of Sincicization," according to the report. China Aid has described sincicization as the effort to "transform

see CHINA on p. 6

LifeWay VBS app ready for prime time

NASHVILLE (BP) — The excitement and learning that takes place at Vacation Bible School (VBS) every summer can happen anywhere now, thanks to the LifeWay VBS Galactic Starveyors app.

For the fourth consecutive year, LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville has released an app connected to its latest VBS material. The app provides churches and parents with numerous opportunities to reinforce biblical lessons from VBS, according to Melita Thomas, VBS and kids' ministry specialist at LifeWay.

"The app is a wonderful tool for connecting church and home," Thomas said. "It also provides churches with an additional easy follow-up tool." LifeWay VBS Galactic Starveyors app includes:

- Interactive games (puzzles, memory verses, etc.)
- Digital coloring pages of Bible story pictures.

see VBS on p. 7

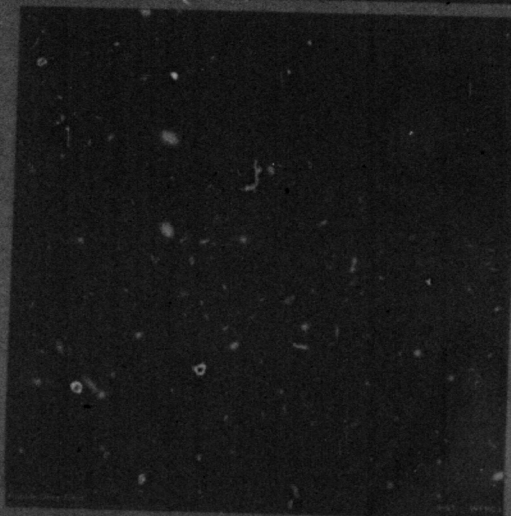


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MAR 29 2017



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS



Obvious to all

British evolutionary biologist and minor celebrity Richard Dawkins is one of many who love to take on the Bible on the premise that the malignant nature of religion has been responsible for many of the ills of the world. In his book, *The God Delusion*, he writes:

To be fair, much of the Bible is not systematically evil but just plain weird, as you would expect of a chaotically cobbled-together anthology of disjointed documents, composed, revised, translated, distorted and 'improved' by hundreds of anonymous authors, editors, and copyists, unknown to us and mostly unknown to each other, spanning nine centuries. This may explain some of the sheer strangeness of the Bible. But unfortunately it is this same weird volume that religious zealots hold up to us as the inerrant source of our morals and rules for living. Those who wish to base their morality literally on the Bible have either not read it or not understood it...

It is a sad observation that such an eminently intelligent person would choose to use their God-given talents to argue that there is no God. While people like Dawkins insist that religious people need to be more open-minded, they are themselves contemptuous and dismissive of anyone who holds to the concept that religious faith is an important part of the human experience.

To fill a world with... religions of the Abraham kind, is like litter-

ing the streets with loaded guns. Do not be surprised if they are used," Dawkins once said.

Perhaps atheists like Dawkins have simply never taken time to look to the heavens, as have actual scientists. It is there, like many millions of other places, that truly open-minded people find the fingerprints of the Supreme Creator, God.

In 1995, scientists aimed the earth-orbiting Hubble Telescope at the farthest possible point in the universe. The image they captured is a breathtaking representation of thousands of galaxies, each composed of millions of stars, so far away from earth that they had never been seen before.

The Hubble Deep Field image convinced some scientists that if the Big Bang Theory is correct (God did speak the universe into existence, after all), they were quite possibly peering back in time to the beginning of everything. "It's like looking into the face of God," said one scientist.

Our God is truly a great God, capable of speaking the Hubble Deep Field galaxies into existence; managing the unimaginable complexities of the universe and still having time to knit together each one of us; guiding the thoughts and actions of those He creates; and sending His Only Begotten Son to save us from ourselves.

That's not hollow philosophy, hocus-pocus, sophistry, or anything of the kind. It is merely the truth.

Eyes of Compassion

A major television network recently did a special featuring heroes, ordinary people who had done extraordinary things in their world. The profiled heroes were people who had seen their world through eyes of compassion and desired to make it better. As I watched the special, I could not help but think that Christians should be the ultimate leaders in seeing needs and meeting them in our communities.

For the Christian, seeing with the compassionate eyes of Christ should be our passion. With the Source of encouragement living within us, we are equipped to lift the spirits of downtrodden people in our world every day. We make a life-sustaining difference in the lives of others by seeing them through the eyes of compassion and pointing them to the source of that compassion - Jesus Christ. Scripture says in I Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore, comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."

People in our world need the compassion of the Lord in their lives. Every day, people face everyday problems. Difficulties, divorce, disasters, depression, dissensions, deaths, despair, and disillusionment are all a part of life. People are either walking through tough times themselves or praying for someone who is already there. Is it any wonder that God would choose Christians as encouragers and compassionate caregivers for hurting souls? Each Christian can make an incredible difference in this chaotic world as we take the compassion of Jesus Christ to those struggling in life.



Softer Side

with Cindy Townsend

Barnabas

Consider the compassion of Barnabas in Acts 11:22-24. Barnabas is described as a "good man full of the Holy Spirit." All through the book of Acts, Barnabas is pictured as a compassionate leader and a strong encourager. As we study his life, we readily see why he had a network of devoted friends. Barnabas used his gift of encouragement and compassion to build bridges to the hearts of people. Barnabas was strategic in the history and expansion of the early church. We can glean many lessons from his life, but one that is especially significant is his ability to see others through God's eyes of compassion.

In Acts 9:26-27, we see Barnabas standing up for Paul. After Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, Christians were fearful of him and shunned him. Some believers probably thought Paul was trying to trick them by pretending to be a believer. Can you imagine the relief Paul felt when

see TOWNSEND on p. 6

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BAPTISTS

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PRAY

FOR PLANTERS

'Pray for Planters' seeks 10,000 praying churches

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Eight months ago, New Orleans church planting missionary Justin Haynes had no idea what Feb. 12-18 would have in store for him and his family.

As far as he knew, the week he would be featured on the North American Mission Board (NAMB) prayer calendar would be an ordinary week of sharing Christ, preparing sermons, and working extra hours at a second job.

It turned out to be anything but ordinary.

"The very week that the focus was on me and our church, I was diagnosed with lymphoma and had surgery," Haynes said, "but we got around 100 cards from people that week who were praying for us. To me, the 'prayer calendar was amazing.'"

His medical prognosis is good. He expects a full recovery and will continue to lead Refuge Church NOLA.

Haynes said the extra prayers helped him and his family understand that they weren't alone in this battle. "In that time, there was a bit of anxiety and fear circling through our minds. To be able to bring in all of these cards and read them to my wife and children and let them see that all these people are praying for us was very encouraging."

NAMB hopes to multiply that kind of prayer impact in the coming months through a new Pray for Planters initiative, aiming to mobilize 10,000 Southern Baptist churches to pray regularly for church plants throughout North America.

"Every church, no matter the size, can pray," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said. "Nothing means more to a missionary than to know that believers are praying for them, for their families, and for their ministry."

"Every church, no matter the size, can pray. Nothing means more to a missionary than to know that believers are praying for them, for their families, and for their ministry."

Kevin Ezell

NAMB President

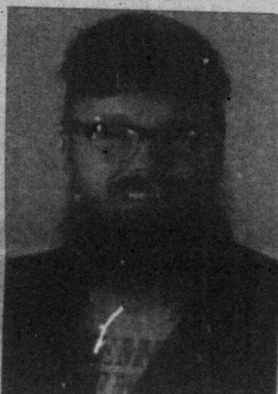
By visiting the prayforplanters.com website, pastors and church leaders can choose either a city, state, or college campus. After providing some basic information, NAMB will email a list of missionaries for whom the church can pray.

Churches also will receive periodic updates about how God is moving in their chosen area. Individuals, meanwhile, can make prayer commitments using the same website.

In the process of praying, NAMB hopes more churches will become involved in church planting. "We currently have more than 3,800 churches involved in church planting as a supporting or sending Church," said William Brown, supporting church coordinator at NAMB.

"It is our desire to provide a clear, simple first step for churches that want to get involved in church planting but may have thought they didn't have enough people or enough resources."

NAMB will send churches specific information about how to pray for the list of missionaries they have received. All the missionaries whose names will be sent to churches are a part of NAMB's church planter care ministry, have affirmed the Bap-



HAYNES

tist Faith and Message 2000, and are committed to give to the Cooperative Program. The church planters may or may not be funded by NAMB.

"This is an opportunity for churches to be a part of a great movement of God in North America," Brown said. "As church planters engage the lost in cities and neighborhoods without a previous Gospel witness, they're reaching communities Southern Baptists have not historically been able to penetrate."

"These guys on the front lines are seeing great fruit from the work as God moves to save people. We hope and pray that Southern Baptists will want to jump in and support this great movement of God in North America through prayer."

For more information about this ministry, to enroll a church, and to view a video featuring Ezell, visit prayforplanters.com. More information about Justin Haynes and the Refuge Church NOLA in New Orleans is available at refugechurchnola.com.

Planned Parenthood balks at proposed funding compromise

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Planned Parenthood's rejection of a White House offer to maintain federal funding if it drops its abortion business demonstrates how important the lethal procedure is to the organization, two Southern Baptist leaders are saying.

The informal proposal and the refusal, reported March 6 by The New York Times, came as the U.S. Congress and U.S. President Trump consider legislation to cut taxpayer funds going annually to the country's leading but scandal-plagued abortion provider.

The sole Mississippi facility listed on Planned Parenthood's web site is the Planned Parenthood Southeast clinic in Hattiesburg that offers abortion referrals but does not perform abortions on site.

Both a budget bill and a new Obamacare replacement measure proposed in the U.S. House of Representatives would slash funds for Planned Parenthood, which receives more than \$500 million annually in government grants and reimbursements.

Federal law prohibits Planned Parenthood from using taxpayer funds to pay for abortions, but critics say covering other non-abortion services with the federal largesse frees up money for abortions.

Planned Parenthood's top officers were unequivocal in their opposition to eliminating abortion after The Times reported the outreach to the organization's allies.

"Planned Parenthood is proud to provide abortion — a necessary service that's as vital to our mission as birth control or cancer screenings," tweeted Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) on March 6.

The rejection of the offer reveals "that without abortion, there would be no Planned Parenthood," Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, told Baptist Press in written comments.

Planned Parenthood "is not a 'health-care' organization but a storefront for an industry that devalues human life and exploits families and communities," Moore pointed out.

"This is just another example of why Planned Parenthood deserves not a penny of taxpayer funding," he said. "I pray that we will see the day soon when federal support of Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry is seen as a

piece of history from a bygone, more morally confused time."

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and a cultural commentator, said the development shows Planned Parenthood is "monomanically committed to abortion. They are the central agency of the culture of death in this society."

"[W]hat Planned Parenthood is saying here is that their values are the values of abortion," Mohler said on the March 8 episode of The Briefing, his weekday podcast. "To what extent? To an extent that they will put at risk half a billion dollars of taxpayer money in annual funding because they are so committed to abortion."

In another Twitter response on March 6, PPFA's Richards said, "We won't back down in the face of threats or intimidation, or turn our backs on the patients who count on us. Not today, tomorrow, not ever."

Dawn Laguens, PPFA's executive vice president, tweeted on March 6, "Offering money to Planned Parenthood to abandon our patients and our values is not a deal that we will ever accept."

"Also, say it with me folks: Abortion is health care," Laguens tweeted later in the day.

In acknowledging the offer, Trump told The Times March 6, "As I said throughout the campaign, I am pro-life and I am deeply committed to investing in women's health and plan to significantly increase federal funding in support of non-abortion services such as cancer screenings."

"Polling shows the majority of Americans oppose public funding for abortion, even those who identify as pro-choice. There is an opportunity for organizations to continue the important work they do in support of women's health, while not providing abortion services."

The effort to cut public funds for Planned Parenthood has grown through years marked by the organization's continued reception of large sums of government money, by its performance of nearly one-third of the abortions in the United States while non-abortion services declined, and by a variety of scandals.

A special House investigative panel recommended in a final report in January that Congress eliminate grants to Planned Parenthood and certify such federal funds go to comprehensive health-care providers that do not perform abortions.

Several years ago, I discovered a wonderful thing. I could download the Bible to my iPhone and iPad, and not only full of copies of Scripture but multiple translations and concordances and commentaries and more studies and helps and devotions than I could read in two lifetimes. All of this would always be right at my fingertips, plus the almost daily pop ups of the latest things being offered to help me get into the Word. Add to that, much of it was free just for the downloading, so I did. I was set to spend time reading God's Word and discovering new thoughts at morning, noon, or night. From any spot on the globe, regardless of what was going on or where I was — a trip or a ballgame or eating a meal or a wedding or a funeral or getting my car serviced — I had my Bible study tools at the end of my arm.

At times I thought, "What an incredible blessing," but with the passing of time I have experienced a few things that have caused me to push back from my cyber-Scripture endeavors and return to reflection on the Book of books using what may seem to be old-fashioned and out-of-date methodology. I did so not to be away from the helps I had found but to get back in touch with the Word from God. Let me explain. I discovered three things about digital Bible study that invariably distracted me and diverted my attention from getting into God's Word.

The first thing was the CLUTTER as I began to read or study. Before I could get to the Word, I had to wade through the latest weather reports, the newest tragedies somewhere in the world, missed calls, and voicemail messages. That was along with the newest app available for better Bible study or some weight loss program or exercise and fitness help and text messages and emails and fundraisers and political ads and bank and credit card offers and on and on and on. Fact is, there are millions of apps and offers just waiting for the



Don't Lose Your Bible in the Digital Dumpster

opportunity to be seen and wanting to get your attention. Stop. I laid my phone down and picked up my copy of God's Word and gently opened it and began to read. No dings or whistles, bells or cartoons, no TV, radio, film, music, news, sports, alarms. Just hearing from God. I realized that I had at times lost my Bible in a digital dumpster, and all that clutter had to go.

The second related problem was what I call the SPUTTER. I began to feel like an old car that wasn't running well, sputtering and jerking its way down the road as it lurched and stalled and moved tentatively forward with doubt about whether it was going anywhere. In my digital study and devotional time and reading, I came to those kinds of moments again and again and would just sputter in my efforts. How so, you may ask. Well, the constant interruptions would pull my mind and my heart, my emotions and my concerns, away from focusing on the Word of God. I would for just an instant turn my attention to other things — the call that

was coming in, the text messages, email notifications, and offers and news alerts and every one of them screaming, "Pay attention to me!" I would pause and wonder, "What does that person need or what is that about?" I'd check it out and then try to get back to where I was in the Word. It is hard to study, think, and meditate in the midst of sputtering and stuttering through the process. I decided the sputtering had to go.

The third thing was the biggest problem. I call it the world of MUTTER. The entire world of cyber-stuff created a universe of noise that reminded me of mass muttering. With every email, call, text, post, news flash, viral piece of information, cute video, or dumb headline, the noise was constant and ever growing. By itself, it will consume your life. There are more and more people across the land who cannot function longer than a few minutes, even while interacting with a living person nearby, without grabbing whatever device they utilize to get back into the world of noise they think is so impor-

tant. There is undoubtedly a lot of good information out there, but it is a world of sound and sight trying to disengage you from wherever else in which you are engaged at the moment. I decided I would not lose my Bible in the river of digital information.

The Bible is not just a source of information in the midst of 10,000 other books. It deserves more respect than that. It is not to be lined up alongside Facebook pages and pictures, posts, news releases from your favorite sports interest, or tweets from celebrities or even the president. The Word of God deserves my attention, my devotion, and my life. God's Word deserves clear time and attention. It still will guide you and give you a powerful word from heaven because it is not just another book — it is direct connectivity with the living God. I have purposefully picked it up and made it have priority in a place and time in my life every day where I can sit down and ask God to speak to my heart, and I start reading it. Oh, the joy that can be yours and mine, without the clutter and sputter and all the sounds that make up the muttering of life! Listen to God.

Do I still have a Bible app at my fingertips on my phone, iPad, and computer? I do. There are times when I'm in a place and space where I use it because it is so convenient. To prioritize, I keep a copy of the Word of God and some of the information and notes that I make separate from all of the thought processes, needs, and opportunities that fill up my phone and my World Wide Web connections. It may work better for you but for me, just one simple guy who can only focus on one thing at a time, I choose to carve out those moments and have that place, time, and experience alone with God before I am sucked into all the other things of life. Do not allow the Bible, your contact with the living Lord, to be thrown into the digital dumpster.

The author can be contacted at directions@mccb.org.

College and Seminary News



▲ The CLARKE COLLEGE Alumni Association met with Barbara C. McMillin, President of BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE to enter into an agreement with Blue Mountain College. This agreement is entered into between Alumni and Friends of Clarke Memorial College and BMC for the purpose of establishing a scholarship trust, the income from which shall be used to assist deserving students attending Blue Mountain College, which trust is established in memory and/or in honor of those instructors, students and friends of CLARKE MEMORIAL COLLEGE. Two officers were able to attend the meeting. L-R Evelyn Williams (Class of 1966), President and Dianne Nelson (Class of 1966), Secretary. Other alumni attending are Lin Skelton Bagwell (Class of 1967), Donna Conway Click (Class of 1967), Walter Scott (Class of 1968), James Reed (Class of 1967), David Goode (Class of 1967) and Lewis Terry Newman (Class of 1967). Donations to the scholarship have reached approximately 40% of the goal. Others wishing to contribute to this scholarship to send donations to either Blue Mountain College, P. O. Box 160, Blue Mountain, MS 38610 or to Clarke College Alumni Association, P. O. Box 181, Newton, MS 39345.



◀ Brandon resident Braden Rodriguez won the Byrd Preaching Award at MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE. He is a Christian Studies major with a minor in history. He accepted the award at a Mar. 21 chapel program. The award includes a certificate and a \$500 cash award.

In other College and Seminary News:

► Shelby Hazzard, pastor, Woodland Church, Columbus, graduated from Southwestern Seminary Dec. 16 with a Doctor of Ministry Degree.

► Mississippi College is hosting Spring Preview Day Mar. 25, with activities beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the B.C. Rogers Student Center. Activities include an address by president Lee Royce, a tour of the cadaver lab, lunch, a reception at Providence Hill Farm, and a baseball game. For information, contact the Admissions Office at (601) 925-3800. A schedule is available online at www.mc.edu/previewday.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 23, 2017

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



MBASYC&O CONCERT TOUR DATES

LOCATION CHANGE

*Wednesday, June 14, 2017
First Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.
200 E. Monticello St.
Brookhaven, MS 39476
(601) 788-9607

Thursday, June 15, 2017
First Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.
300 N Cleveland Ave.
Long Beach, MS 39560
(228) 864-2584

Friday, June 16, 2017
First Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.
1108 Robb St.
Summit, MS 39666
(601) 248-6268

Saturday, June 17, 2017
Highland Colony Baptist Church, 6:00 p.m.
1200 Highland Colony Pkwy.
Ridgeland MS 39157
(601) 856-4031

Sunday, June 18, 2017
First Baptist Church, 11:00 a.m.
402 N Van Buren St.
Carthage, MS 39051
(601) 267-4583

First Baptist Church, 6:00 p.m.
303 1st Ave.
Amory, MS 38821
(662) 256-7131

Monday, June 19, 2017
First Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.
431 North State St.
Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 949-1900



JUNE 27 - JULY 1, 2017

Southwest Mississippi Community College
Summit, MS

THE MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS CAMP
FOR 6TH - 12TH GRADERS

For more information: www.mbc.org | sluttrell@mbcb.org

CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Mississippi Baptist Handbell Festival

March 31 - April 1
Brandon Baptist Church, Brandon

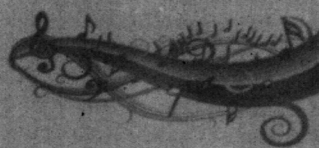
Barry Burris, Handbell Specialist
Michelle Smith, Handbells Clinician

For more information including schedule and registration forms,
call Church Music Department at
1-800-748-1651 (in town — 601-292-3267)
You can also visit our Web site at www.mbc.org.



July 11-15
Pearl River Community College, Poplarville

July 18-22
Blue Mountain College



Mississippi Baptist
 State Senior Adult
 Choir Festival

May 9

Meadow Grove BC, Brandon

Church Music Department Events
 601-292-3267 - cwtaylor@mbcb.org

It's 2017!

Time to

APPLY

for scholarships

The Mississippi
 Baptist Foundation

get more details and
 complete the application
 at www.msbaptistfoundation.org

before May 31

call us at (601.292.3210) for more information

Area II Senior Adult Spring Rally

March 27, 2017

FBC, Tupelo 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Refreshments will begin at 8:30 a.m.

For questions, please contact:

Union County Association: 662.534.3940 | FBC, Tupelo: 662.842.1327

MBCB District Two Family Ministry Department

MBCB CONNECT CAMPS 2017 PRESENTS

STAGES

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Registration begins January 1 @ www.mbcbb.org

Session I - June 5 - 8 | Session II - June 8 - 11 | Session III - June 13 - 16

For Questions Contact: Tasha Presson in Discipleship/Family Ministry
 at 601-292-3264 or tpresson@mbcb.org

2017 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PREACHING CONFERENCE

The Study of "Mark"
April 17-19, 2017

Monday, Blue Mountain College
Tuesday, William Carey University
Wednesday, Mississippi College

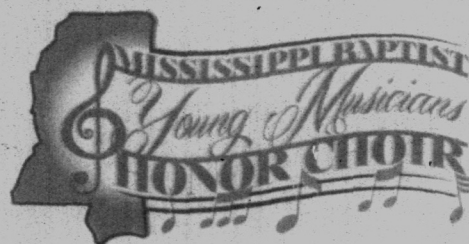
Register today at
mvpun.com/preach2017

Pastor/Leadership Development | 601-292-3305

CP DAY APRIL 9



FOR MATERIALS OR INFORMATION, CONTACT LISA LEAVELL IN STEWARDSHIP/CP
AT 601-292-3347 OR lleavell@mbcb.org



Miss. Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir in concert
March 25, FBC Florence at 6:30 p.m.

For more information: http://www.mbc.org/church_growth/cm/honor_choir.aspx

Contact: Wyndy South, Music Dept., 601-292-3272 locally
or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 272 statewide | wsouth@mbcb.org

MISSION»

POSSIBLE

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTRY ASSISTANTS CONFERENCE
GARAYWA CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER | APRIL 10-11, 2017

CONTACT THE PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPT. AT
601-292-3305 OR VCLARY@MBCB.ORG FOR MORE INFO.

MINISTERS

2017 GOLF TOURNAMENT

MAY 8-9
LAKE CAROLINE GOLF CLUB
MADISON, MS
1:00 PM MONDAY START TIME

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THIS TIME OF
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Pray this day for...

March 24 - April 6, 2017

"praying at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Shella Flowers**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through administration.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank & Phoebe Harrison**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hathcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Cynthia Hodgins**, missionary ministering to Deaf Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Kerri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeffery & Liesa Holman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Daniel & Claudia Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African & Middle Eastern Peoples through church planting & evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard Jones**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Susan Jones**, missionary ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert Mooney**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through Strategy Coordination.



JULY 27 - 29

LITERACY FOR LIFE, LIFE FOREVER

LIGHTENING THE LOAD

— Matthew 11:28-30 —

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2017 Senior Adult Day Retreats

Sr. Day Retreat I

May 16, 2017

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Grenada, MS

Sr. Day Retreat II

May 18, 2017

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

West Ellisville Baptist Church
Ellisville, MS

Sr. Day Retreat III

May 23, 2017

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Meadow Grove Baptist Church
Brandon, MS

Discipleship/Family Ministry - 601-292-3284 | tpresson@mbcb.org

HOUSE TOPS

OBITUARY

Charles Ted Hawkins, 71, pastor of Hillsboro Church in Hillsboro (Scott Association), died March 13. In 1997, he answered the call to vocational ministry, graduating in 1998 from William Carey University in Hattiesburg with a Bachelor of General Studies degree. He then attended New Orleans Seminary and was licensed and ordained to the Gospel ministry in 2000. Hawkins was born September 28, 1945, to Revis Reshee Hawkins Sr. and Ina Ovena Edwards Hawkins. Upon graduating from Burns High School in Raleigh, he served in the U.S. Navy from 1966-70. He returned to Mississippi and enrolled at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville. He worked several years for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Scott County Co-Op, and Smith County Co-Op. From 1977-95 he owned a poultry



HAWKINS

farm and worked for the U.S. Postal Service as a rural mail carrier. Hawkins pastored Barefoot Springs Church in Pelahatchie (Rankin Association) from 2000-06 and Hillsboro Church from 2006 until his death. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Revis Jr.; and daughter Kelley Nacole Hawkins. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Charlotte Jane Pope Hawkins of Lorena; daughter Tracy Renee Pace (Cliff) of Hernando; two granddaughters Shaoey Jane Pace and Sadie Caroline Pace; and grandson Charles Hudson Pace. Memorial service was held March 16, at Wolf Funeral Services in Morton followed by burial at Lorena Church Cemetery in Lorena. Cliff Pace and Tommy Anderson officiated. Wolf Funeral Services in Morton was in charge of arrangements. (Source: ObitTree.com)

Page/Moore: no conflict between the two leaders

NASHVILLE (BP) — Despite a Washington Post article suggesting Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee President Frank S. Page could ask Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) President Russell Moore to resign amid ongoing controversy, the two SBC entity leaders reported a collegial meeting March 13 and said they "fully support one another."

Earlier in the day amid a social media flurry following the Post's report, Page told Baptist Press he planned on "bridge-building" with Moore with no anticipation of requesting a resignation.

The Post reporter who broke news that the March 13 meeting would occur, Sarah Pulliam Bailey, tweeted a clarification less than two hours after her story was published: "Nothing in my story suggests Moore might be fired. SBC dynamics are more complicated. [Plus] the story is complicated (surprise!)"

The meeting between Page and Moore came less than a month after the Executive Committee launched a study of churches' escrowing Cooperative Program (CP) money and two months after Dallas-area Prestonwood Church senior pastor Jack Graham announced his church would escrow CP funds over "various significant positions taken by the leadership of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission."

The EC has received reports of similar actions by other churches.



PAGE AND MOORE

Churches have expressed concern about alleged disrespectfulness by Moore toward evangelical supporters of President Trump and about a friend of the court brief signed by the ERLC in support of a New Jersey Islamic society's right to build a mosque.

Following their two-hour meeting at the SBC Building in Nashville, Page and Moore said in a joint statement, "We met as colleagues committed to the same priorities of proclaiming the Gospel to every man, woman, boy and girl while also addressing biblical and Gospel issues on a wide range of topics to a culture that seems to have lost its way — issues ranging from religious liberty and racial reconciliation to Kingdom diversity and the sanctity of human life from the womb to the grave."

"We deepened our friendship and developed mutual understanding on ways we believe will move us forward as a network of churches. We fully support one another and look forward to working together on behalf of

Southern Baptists in the years to come. We will collaborate on developing future steps to deepen connections with all Southern Baptists as we work together to advance the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Prior to the meeting, The Post reported — under a headline that asked, "Could Southern Baptist Russell Moore lose his job?" — that a meeting between Page and Moore was to occur March 13. Page declined to discuss specific plans for the meeting with The Post and told Bailey he hoped Moore and his opponents would pursue reconciliation.

Page told BP he had "requested a private meeting with Dr. Moore" last week and that Bailey apparently became aware of the meeting.

When Bailey called Page on March 12, "I insisted that the meeting with Dr. Moore was a private meeting intended to seek bridge-building strategies," Page said, acknowledging that "nothing was off the table" in his efforts to facilitate reconciliation within the convention.

"I also informed [Bailey] that I have no authority over Dr. Moore; that is vested in his board of trustees," Page said, adding his desire for the meeting was "to find bridge-building solutions to an unnecessary divide that has been created across the landscape of our Southern Baptist network of churches."

MS POSITIONS

DREW BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR— Please email resume to drewbaptistchurch@gmail.com or U.S. mail to Drew Baptist Church, 139 S Church St., Drew, MS 38737.

CENTER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN HAMILTON, MS IS LOOKING FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH. Please send resume to Youth Minister Search Committee at P.O. Box 59, Hamilton, MS 38746 or you may email to pastorlarryjoe@yahoo.com

SOUTHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR MINISTER OF YOUTH. Please email resumes to southwaybaptist@yahoo.com

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR - BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED AT MERIDIAN, MS IN THE WHYNOT COMMUNITY OF SOUTHERN LAUDERDALE COUNTY. Please email resume to office@whynotbethany.org or mail to Bethany Baptist Church 4475 Ponds Road Meridian, MS 39301.

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BI-VOCATIONAL WORSHIP PASTOR: Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Moulton, AL is receiving resumes for a part-time bi-vocational worship pastor. Resumes and inquiries may be sent to joycesouthside@aol.com

GATLINBURG RENTAL: Cabin \$95/night. Contact: 832-922-0401 or Email: pdw4790@att.net for information and booking.

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QRV?

SBVFM NKI: WRPF

Clue: T = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews 9:12

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Concord Church, Smith County**: Revival, Mar. 26 - 29; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Hal Daire, speaker.

► **Trinity Church, Pearl**: Homecoming (45th anniversary) and revival, Mar. 26 - 29; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Roger Lee, speaker; Tim Hendricks, music.

► **Calvary Church, Winston County**: Revival, Mar. 26 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m.; Dennis Duval, speaker; John Yates, music; Johnny Collins, pastor.

CHINA

cont. from p. 1

Christian theology into a doctrine that aligns with the core values of socialism and so-called Chinese characteristics."

Beijing formerly guided "religion and socialism to mutually adapt," China Aid reported.

"The key findings of what happened last year and the reports from these first two months of 2017 have shown the situation of religious freedom is rapidly deteriorating," said Bob Fu, president of China Aid, which promotes religious liberty and the rule of law in the communist giant.

"We call upon both the persecuted faithful in China and the international community to be increasingly vigilant and persevere in facing this harsher year."

China Aid's report included the following increases in recorded persecution from 2015 to 2016:

- Cases of persecution grew by 20%.

- The number of Christians who were detained mushroomed by 148%.



- The number of Christians who were sentenced increased by 30%.

- The number of Christians abused rose by 70%.

China is among 10 countries the U.S. State Department

has designated as "countries of particular concern." That designation is reserved for governments that commit or tolerate "systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom."

GUIDESTONE

cont. from p. 1

moves are normal at this point in the economic cycle. The financial markets should not react much to [the March 15] moves, given that a .25 % [hike] was fully expected, and because the Fed did not raise their expectations for the pace of future rate hikes."

While the increase in interest rates demonstrates confidence in economic growth, retirement investors should continue to focus on their long-term goals and make investment decisions consistent with their objectives, time horizon, and risk tolerance, said GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins.

"Your retirement account performance moving forward

will be determined based on results of the financial markets in the future, not the past. It's important to always remember markets are cyclical and historically have rewarded those with long-term perspectives," Hawkins said.

"While the headlines will focus on the news and emotions in a given moment, retirement plan investors should focus on the long-term."

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 630, Jackson, MS 39205-0630, FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

TOWNSEND

cont. from p. 2

Barnabas compassionately stepped forward to speak up on his behalf? When others eyed Paul with great suspicion, Barnabas saw him through eyes of compassion. When Paul was virtually friendless, Barnabas befriended him. As a result, people began to trust Paul's words. Soon Paul's Gospel message was heard and received across the land. Had it not been for Barnabas compassionately standing in the gap for Paul at such a critical time, I wonder how Paul's message would have been received and embraced. Barnabas saw Paul through eyes of compassion and challenged others to do the same.

Annie

Annie Walker Armstrong saw the spiritual and physical needs of people and organized mission work to meet those needs. She wrote thousands of personal letters encouraging people to become involved in the cause of Christ. She reached out to children. She distributed food, clothing, and

the Word of God to people. She organized mission workers to further the cause of Christ. Her efforts ultimately led to the organization today known as the Woman's Missionary Union, now with auxiliaries to both the Southern Baptist Convention and Mississippi Baptist Convention. Annie is a hero to millions today because she saw her world through eyes of compassion. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions exists today because her compassionate heart sparked a collective effort of compassionate giving.

What will you see?

Christ needs us to open our eyes to the needs of those around us and seek to make a difference in His name. Have you identified those in your world who need to know the compassion of Christ?

Townsend is executive director-treasurer of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union and Women's Ministries, an auxiliary to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. She may be contacted at ctownsend@mbcb.org.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

More Than a Prophet • Matthew 21:1-11

"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Zechariah 9:9 (NIV)

As a child, I remember Palm Sunday or the celebration of the Triumphal Entry, almost as much as Easter Sunday. Easter was a day of new dresses, too tight shoes, hats, and gloves and I enjoyed it but not as much as Palm Sunday. This was the day I was able to actually be a part of the service. The children would line up on each side of the aisles with palm branches waving wildly calling out "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" The choir would sing loud rejoicing songs and I was on cloud nine! As I think back on those days, I know I was merely caught up in the excitement of celebration...a change from the normal service. But to be honest, I didn't have a clue what we were doing or even an inkling of why! I think those in Jerusalem that day and I had a great deal in common.

The chapters we are covering this quarter include Jesus' preparing His disciples for the reality of the cross. He had told each of them, in detail, about what would happen but I don't think they com-

prehended the reality that these things were imminent. As they entered Jerusalem for the Passover, things began to get a little weird; time itself sped up. Jesus' requests and His teachings became more intense and sometimes made little sense yet they did everything they were told. I imagine they were confused, excited and more than a little scared.

That Passover week started differently and that difference began as they entered the city. Jesus told them to go and find a donkey and her colt and bring it to Him... adding if they had any trouble they were to say it was for the Lord. Imagine their relief when there came into view a donkey with her colt. They brought them to Jesus and put their cloaks on them for a makeshift saddle. As Jesus sat upon the colt, crowds began to cut branches from the trees and put them on the ground and began to shout those same words I did as a young primary child.



Explore the Bible

with Cyndi Grace

Both Isaiah and Zechariah had prophesied this very entry into Jerusalem nearly 600 years before. I am sure the feeling was surreal yet the disciples were getting caught up in it. Perhaps they thought Jesus was going to be that military leader to set His people free, after all. I am sure they joined in the throng waving and shouting louder than all the others. Yes, it was a great day!

Then we read these words, "When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?' The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'" (Matthew 21:10-11 NIV)

They didn't have a clue, just as I didn't have a clue back at First Baptist Church, Atwater, California about why they were so excited. They were just caught up with the frenzy.

However, there was a group who did understand. Those who knew and understood the prophecies, were very aware of

the statement Jesus was making and they began to plot against Him. They understood two important words in Zechariah's prophecy that they would use against Jesus: "your king!"

Perhaps you have heard this story so many times, you merely glanced over it wanting to get to the main event but let me encourage you to stop and see the importance of what Jesus was doing. He was fulfilling prophecy—not the prophecy of a mere prophet but of the long-awaited Messiah. Everything Jesus would now do would be to fulfill what scriptures had said about Him so there could be no doubt He was who He said He was.

Today our world is asking, "Who is this, Jesus?" They acknowledge He existed but was He just a good man who did great things? Did He merely do social ministry? Was he a great prophet? The disciples had been asked just a few weeks earlier, "But you, who do you say I am?" When our world asks, what will we say? We have each of these prophecies to verify, "This is the Messiah; the Son of the living God."

Grace is a Bible teacher, conference leader, and member of First Church, Clinton.

Victorious Faith • Hebrews 11:1-6

How much of your life is characterized by biblical faith and how much of it is lived on autopilot? What have you attempted for the Lord lately that required that you go beyond your personal abilities, your comfort zone, and that which comes natural?

In the verses before this week, the writer of Hebrews 11 does more than suggest that we believe in God and trust Him. He actually tells us it is absolutely necessary in the life of the believer if we are to experience victory and bring our Lord pleasure.

Faith is the very catalyst whereby we experience salvation in Jesus. By simply trusting in what the Lord has done through His death and resurrection, we become believers. Paul says it this way: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph 2:8 NIV).

But for God's children the need to trust the Lord goes far above and beyond our salvation experience. It is a daily, hourly, and minute-by-minute necessity if we are to experience the victorious faith Jesus has provided us.

In verse one of Hebrews 11, we are given a clear, crisp definition of what biblical faith is: the assurance of things hoped for,

the conviction of things not seen. In other words, what God has promised us often can't be seen, tasted, touched, heard, or smelled by our five human senses but spiritually we can lay hold of these promises by faith. We can take God at his word and thus stand on his promises. And when we do, the quality of our lives goes up. The peace of God becomes ours. The favor of God rests heavily upon us, and the power of God works mightily within us.

Biblical faith requires more than confession, church attendance, and adherence to a creed. It calls for demonstration, expression, and action. By faith Abel carefully selected a choice animal from his flock and brought it as an offering to God. But why? Perhaps his mom and dad told him the story of how they transgressed against God and how the Lord killed an animal to not only provide skins to cover their naked bodies but blood to cover

their sin. Therefore by faith, Abel, selected the best specimen from his flock and brought it to God as an offering. Out of the personal conviction that he, like his parents, had fallen short of God's glory, brought the Lord a blood sacrifice and thus was forgiven.

Enoch is another practitioner of biblical faith. Interestingly, he is member of a rare class of people. In fact, there have been only two men, who ever lived on this earth that did not experience death: Enoch and Elijah. What an epitaph God wrote

for Enoch's legacy. Hebrews 11:5c says "for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God." Now the Enoch the writer of Hebrews references is not the son of Cain in Genesis 4. He is the son of Jared in Genesis 5 and the father of Methuselah. And although we do not know a whole lot about Enoch, one thing we do know

is, his faith was pleasing to God. Is your faith in God the kind that brings the Lord pleasure and inspires others to trust Him more?

Could your faith in Lord stand an upgrade? Are you a living display of what God can do in and through someone who just makes himself available? Do you believe God is who he says he is and can do what he says he can do? Do you trust him to do it in your life? J. Oswald Sanders said, "Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen."

Often God waits for his children to demonstrate faith before he pulls the trigger on his resources. What do you need from the Lord today? Would you trust his promise to supply all your needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus? Would you begin to ask with confidence for what you need from your heavenly Father today? Then move forward with the conviction that he indeed will deliver.

God waits to show himself strong in our lives. But one thing he requires before he will move is faith on our part.

Burnett is pastor of Willow Pointe Church, Hattiesburg.

Bible Studies for Life

with Jim Burnett



VBS

cont. from p. 1

- Music (VBS theme song plus all five daily VBS songs).
- Bible stories designed for each age group.
- Choreography videos.
- Family devotions.
- Interactive radio drama

audio titled, Takin' It Home.

- Plan of salvation/Gospel presentation.
- Stellar Family Fun (list of activities families can do together).

Instead of simply asking their children what they did at VBS, the app places parents in an active role in their child's spiritual development, Thomas noted. "Parents say

they feel responsible for their child's spiritual growth but can feel ill-equipped to do that," she said.

The app can "help parents take on those God-given roles and responsibilities," she pointed out.

Thomas said the app's usefulness extends to both before and after VBS is attended. With many unchurched families at-

tending VBS, the app can have an eternal impact, she observed.

"Kids also enjoy reliving VBS over and over again," she said. "The app lets them engage with VBS long after the event is over."

It can also help churches in their preparation, she added. "While your average lay leader may have to wait a few more months to get their planning ma-

terial and curriculum, they can go ahead and get the app for themselves and get a jump on learning the music and the motions, studying the Bible stories and getting excited for VBS this year."

The LifeWay VBS Galactic Starveyors app is currently available for Apple and Android devices for \$2.99. Find more VBS resources at LifeWay.com/vbs2017.

Just for the Record



GRIFFITH MEMORIAL CHURCH, JACKSON, ordained Steve McWhorter and Doug Bradshaw as deacons Feb. 19. Shown are McWhorter, pastor Andy Fullington, and Bradshaw.

In other Church News:

➤ **Shiloh Church, Big Creek**, is hosting the Reed Brothers in concert Mar. 26, 10:45 a.m., followed by a potluck meal.

➤ **Cato Church, Cato**, is hosting Life By Design, the Bible and Human Sexuality, Mar. 26, at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 5 p.m. James D. Clardy, Kenny Digby, and Chas Rowland, speakers.



SIMMONS MEMORIAL CHURCH, FLORA, ordained Rodney Weathersby as deacon Jan. 22. Shown are Rick Lang, Weathersby, pastor Wilson Bishop, and Shane Weathersby.



PEARL RIVER ASSOCIATION RA Race Day was held on February 11, 2017. Winners are as follows: Lads: 1st Place - Jacob Cotton, Bethel; 2nd Place - Justin Dillard, Bethel; 3rd Place - Peyton Shepard, Roseland Park; Crusaders: 1st Place - Jimmy Griffith, Bethel; 2nd Place - Landon Wells, Bethel; 3rd Place - Tristan Gennin, Bethel; Best in Show: Michael Tatum, Union; Best Sportsmanship: Brock Gramling, Roseland Park



FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, STATE LINE, honored Wayne Smith and Guyton Clark Mar. 5. They were presented plaques from church members, children, and received letters, cards, and notes, along with a luncheon. John Henry, speaker. Shown are Smith, pastor Josh Flowers, and Clark.



COILA CHURCH, COILA, ordained Brandon Clunan as deacon Mar. 12. Shown are pastor Terry Corley, Dayna Clunan, Lilly Clunan, and Clunan.



The women's ministry of **FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, ABERDEEN**, worked on a project putting up new valances in the fellowship hall and surrounding Sunday School rooms Mar. 13. Shown are Gail Burton, Jackie Grubbs, Judy Mays, and Emma Jean Howell.



Members of **SPRING HILL CHURCH, WATERFORD**, celebrated Old Fashioned Day, including singing old songs, a potluck lunch, and fellowship. John Parker, pastor.



Members of the children's ministry at **TRINITY CHURCH, MONROE COUNTY**, participated in Children's Ministry Day Feb. 18, assembling and delivering Emergency Care Buckets to senior adults and shut-ins of the church and in the Quincy community, followed by lunch at Wendy's. Justin Simmons, pastor.